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while an eminent statesman, has given but little of his life to the real study of history. I doubt whether he has ever examined one of the ancient Virginia Order Books, or he would have known that the lawyers who appear in these records were from the very earliest times the first men of the counties. The business of the courts was at first of a very simple character, and there was very little encouragement to the trained lawyers. The causes were, however, pleaded by the more prominent merchants and planters, acting for the parties in suits. Rural communities are ever jealous of special classes, and no conclusion can be drawn from the language of the Acts of Assembly during the seventeenth century but the prevalence of a prejudice, which has not yet entirely disappeared from our midst. Strictures on the profession are sometimes even yet heard in Virginia, more especially in the country districts. To show on what little foundation the legislative censures rested, in one or more of the Acts lawyers were actually forbidden to charge *any fee* whatever. But take York county in the seventeenth century, and a simple statement of the names of the leading lawyers is a sufficient refutation of the charge brought by Mr. Lodge "that the early lawyers were for the most part pettifoggers and sharpers, broken adventurers from London and indented servants." Among the lawyers of York county we find in 1646 William Hockaday, Karbry Kiggan, Francis Willis, Thomas Bushrod and Dr. Robert Ellison; about 1660 John Holdcroft, James Bray, Thomas Ballard, John Page, and Daniel Parke; about 1675 William Swinnerton, William Sherwood, and Gideon Macon—all these were trusted and prominent men. Willis, Bray, Page and Parke became members of the Virginia Council; and Hockaday, Bushrod, Ellison and Macon were at different times members of the House of Burgesses. (QUARTERLY, VIII., 228.) With the probable exception of John Holdcroft, William Swinnerton and William Sherwood, all were merchants and planters, well informed, but not regularly trained to the law. It is certainly a very absurd criticism to call them "pettifoggers or sharpers."

Lack of space will not permit a more extended view of Mr. Barton's excellent volumes. They deserve a favored place in both the law and general libraries of the country.

VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PAPERS: Vol. XXVII. Edited by R. A. Brock, Secretary of the Southern Historical Society, Richmond, Va. 1909. Published by the Society.

In this interesting volume Mr. Brock continues the good work of putting on record the story of the South's fight for independence in 1861-1865. There are forty-four articles, the most important of which is, doubtless, the leading article: "The Work of the Ordnance Bureau," by J. W. Mallet, Ex-Lieut.-Colonel of Artillery and Superintendent of the Confederate States Ordnance Laboratories. The remarkable success

and vigor displayed by the Confederates in surmounting the difficulties of an almost unarmed condition and developing efficient mills and factories for making arms and ammunition is one of the most interesting facts in the history of the war. It proved that Southern genius was capable of great things in fields the most unknown. In the fifth article, the tribute of W. Gordon McCabe to Major Andrew Reid Venable, is in the best vein of that admirable writer and speaker. Then Major Thomas L. Broun's "Recollections of the Battle of Cloyds Mountain" is full of interest and worthy of the gallant soldier and noble Virginian that he is.

THE BIRTH OF LIBERTY: A Story of Bacon's Rebellion. By John H. Lane. Richmond, Va.: The Hermitage Press. 1909.

In this work Mr. Lane has essayed his talents in a very difficult plane. One of the hardest things in the world is to write a historic novel. The environments and main events must always be critically correct. It, therefore, makes against Mr. Lane's maiden effort to find him underrating the Cavaliers and accepting the idea that the Virginians of the seventeenth century were illiterate. A cavalier like Col. Guy Molesworth who had received twenty-five wounds in battle fighting for the King might be "poor," but it was morally impossible that he could be worthless. General Lee was poor when the war for Southern Independence closed, but his career of usefulness did not cease. And so illiteracy goes by comparisons, and our people in the seventeenth century were quite as well informed as the same classes in Massachusetts or England. Why, therefore, repeat the old calumnies? We can seldom trust oral testimony, but the story of enlightenment told by the letters, deeds, and wills and marriage bonds cannot be questioned. There were many ways in which the Virginians had the best of the New Englanders. They were more in contact with the better opportunities of the Mother Country. The parishes were continually supplied from England with Oxford and Cambridge graduates as ministers, who taught school. New England, on the other hand, self centered, isolated in spirit and in religion, was woefully deficient in learning and in the refinements of colonial life. Beverley, our historian, is of higher authority than Berkeley, and he speaks of the numerous free schools which had existence in Virginia. But better than any other proof of superior information are the manuscripts of that time, which have come down to us. These, in the general, are much better written in Virginia than in Massachusetts. Mr. Jefferson, writing to Joseph C. Cabell in 1820, declared that the mass of information in Virginia before the American Revolution placed her among the foremost of her sister States.